

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 159109

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELIZE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 159109

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, MASS, GT, BH, UK

SUBJECT:GUATEMALAN C-47 ACQUISITION: BELIZE TALKS

REF: STATE 146420

1. UK EMBOFF WALKER CALLED ON CEN JULY 3 FOR STATUS REPORT
ON C-47'S AND DISCUSSION OF NEXT ROUND OF BELIZE NEGOTIA-
TIONS.

2. DEPTOFFS INFORMED WALKER THAT C-47 QUESTION UNDER ACTIVE
RECONSIDERATION, BUT JOINT USG-GOG REVIEW OF GUATEMALAN
LIGHT TRANSPORT NEEDS HAD NOT COMMENCED. WE WERE STILL
DEBATING FEASIBILITY OF SUCH A REVIEW INTERNALLY AND IT
WAS POSSIBLE THAT WE WOULD RESOLVE THE QUESTION OF C-47'S
WITHOUT SUCH A REVIEW. DEPTOFFS MENTIONED THAT ONE
SUGGESTION UNDER CONSIDERATION WAS TO FOREGO THE REVIEW
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PAGE 02 STATE 159109

AND INSTEAD TO SELL GUATEMALA SMALL NUMBER OF C-47

AIRCRAFT, AS WE HAD AGREED TO DO IN 1972.

3. WALKER STATED THAT BELIZE GARRISON COMMANDER HAD ADVISED HMG THAT HE WOULD REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN NUMBER OF TROOPS AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS SHOULD GUATEMALA AUGMENT PARADROP CAPABILITY THROUGH ACQUISITION OF C-47 AIRCRAFT. WALKER SAID THAT PRICE ALREADY UNDER

DOMESTIC PRESSURE TO BACK AWAY FROM TALKS AND UK BELIEVED NEWS OF AIRCRAFT ACQUISITIONS WOULD FURTHER UNDERMINE HIS POSITION AND HIS RESOLVE. WALKER ADDED THAT HMG HAD NOT INFORMED PRICE OF ARAVA DEAL OR POSSIBLE C-47 TRANSACTION.

4. WITH RESPECT TO NEXT ROUND TALKS, WALKER SAID HE UNDERSTOOD TALKS NOW SET FOR NEW YORK IN MID-JULY. UK BELIEVES FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON TERRITORIAL ISSUE NOT LIKELY TO BE PRODUCTIVE AND INTENDS ADDRESS OTHER ISSUES. (WALKER ALLEGED IGNORANCE OF SPECIFIC TOPICS). EITHER COURTONEY OR SHOMAN WILL REPRESENT BELIZE DURING TALKS; BOTH HAD JUST BEEN IN UK. FOREIGN OFFICE BELIEVED THAT SHOMAN, AS STAUNCH BACKER OF PRICE, WOULD BE ADEQUATE MEMBER OF DELEGATION.

5. WALKER SAID THAT THEIR CONSUL IN GUATEMALA HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT GUATEMALAN TEAM COMPOSED LARGELY OF SANDOVAL PARTISANS WHO MAY NO LONGER ENJOY CONFIDENCE OF LAUGERUD. WE TENDED DOWNPLAY THIS POSSIBILITY AND REFERRED TO TENOR AND CONTENT OF RECENT MESSAGE TO CONGRESS AS EVIDENCE THAT GOG STILL SUPPORTING TALKS. KISSINGER

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